

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are currently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-6 have been canceled, and claims 7-38 have been newly added. No new matter has been added by these changes since support therefor may be derived from claims 1-6 and the subject Specification, as originally filed. In particular, support for the limitations of direct and alternating currents in claims 8 and 29 may be found on page 5, second full paragraph of the Specification, support for inclusion of the other chosen properties of a portion of skin in claims 21 and 27 may be found in Section 1.1 of page 2, and support for the inclusion of pivotable mounting of sensors to the surface of the apparatus in claims 14, 18, 25, 30, and 38 may be found in Section 1.4.2.2 on page 9.

In the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-6 were objected to because of the following informalities: the claims contain indefinite language; in particular, a proliferation of "if necessary" and "as for example" limitations which cause the metes and bounds of the claims to be unclear. The Examiner required correction of these claims. In response thereto, applicant has canceled claims 1-6 and added new claims 7-17.

Claims 3-6 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only. In response thereto, applicant has canceled claims 3-6 and added new claims 7-17.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gozzini (U.S. Patent 6,665,428 B1), since the Examiner stated that Gozzini discloses the claimed invention, an apparatus and software for controlling that apparatus, comprising separate capacitive [108], resistive [206a], and reference [206b] electrodes, individually addressed in a sequence controlled by the software, where the resistive sensors are used to determine if a living finger is at that position (by measuring bio-characteristics of the skin on the finger), where only capacitive sensors that correspond to areas completely covered by a finger are used to measure the fingerprint. The Examiner continued that the system generates output signals to determine if a finger is detected, and may initiate fingerprint acquisition

automatically by the detection mechanism (See Col. 3 and 4, and Figs. 1, 2a, 2b, 3.).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner concerning the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gozzini (U.S. Patent 6,665,428 B1). Turning to Col. 3, lines 48-55 of Gozzini, it is stated that: "In the present invention, sensor array **108** also includes a plurality of resistive grids **206a-206b** employed to sense the resistance of the finger when placed on the surface of the sensor array **108**. This sensed resistance is then compared to a predefined "sample" or threshold value or range. If the resistance of the finger is greater than the predefined value (or within the range), a finger is detected on the surface of sensor array **108**." Thus, Gozzini teaches that if any of the resistive grids provide a predefined value (or within the range) of resistance, a finger is detected and capacitive finger print detection goes forward.

By contrast, subject claim 7 recites in part: "...at least two main sensors disposed on the surface and defining an area thereon, said at least two main sensors being capable of measuring resistance; at least two auxiliary sensors disposed on the surface and outside of the area defined by said at least two main sensors, said at least two auxiliary sensors being capable of measuring resistance; ... whereby a measured resistance from said at least two main sensors is used in the measurement of the resistance of the portion of skin if said at least two auxiliary sensors has a measured resistance."

Applicant believes that Gozzini does not anticipate the use of sensors to determine an area in which the skin property may properly be measured if resistance is measured in auxiliary sensors outside of this area. Similar recitations are found in newly added independent claims 13, 16, and 20. Claim 13, for example, recites: "...whereby measurements of the resistance from sensor pairs which are in partial contact with the portion of skin are used to generate a contact area, and the measurement of the resistance by sensor pairs within the contact area are used in the measurement of the resistance of the portion of skin."

The Examiner cited another reference, but did not apply this reference to the subject claims. After carefully reviewing this document, applicant believes that no further response is required.

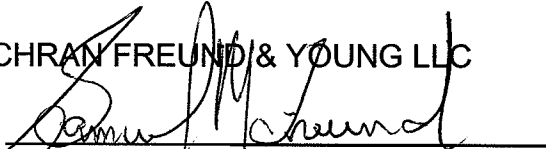
In view of the discussion presented hereinabove, applicant believes that newly added claims 7-38 are in condition for allowance, and such action by the Examiner at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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